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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

REPORT NO. [redacted]

CD NO.

COUNTRY Indochina/China

DATE DISTR. 23 Mar 1949

SUBJECT Background Information on Trip of Nguyen Duc Thuy to China

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NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF IN [redacted]

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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[redacted]

1. In March 1948, Nguyen Duc Thuy left Caobang, crossed the Chinese frontier and was enroute to Canton. He was arrested by the provincial Chinese authorities near Nanning and was kept in prison for three months. At the same time his Chinese companion, Duong Thanh Dan, was also arrested and was taken to Canton where he is still in prison awaiting a trial that may never take place. Nguyen Duc Thuy was carrying more than three million piasters, partially in banknotes of the Bank of Indochina, partially in gold, and partially in opium.*

2. Last June WU-Te-Chen, Secretary of the Central Committee of the KMT at Nanking, sent a telegram to the provincial authorities of Kwangsi ordering the release of Nguyen Duc Thuy and inviting him to come to Nanking to see him. Thuy was in Nanking for almost a month (June-July 1948). Toward the end of July 1948, Thuy returned to Canton where he remained for several days. During this stay he saw many Vietnamese, including members of the VNQDD and members of the Phuc Quoc. Thuy also paid a visit to WANG Chen-chiu, deputy commander of the anti-Communist forces in provinces of Kwangtung and Kwangsi. No one knows exactly the purpose of this visit or the accords or disagreements resulting from it.

3. Two days after the visit of Thuy to WANG Chen-chiu, an article appeared in the Hong Kong newspaper Wah Kui Yat Pao (Hua Chiao Jeh Pao) describing the visit. Several Vietnamese sources in Canton believe that this article was inspired by Hoang Nam Hung of the Phuc Quoc** Hoang Nam Hung denied being the source of the article and regretted that Thuy was angry at him because of its publication. Immediately after the publication of the article, Thuy returned to Indochina by the same route through Nanning that he had originally taken. He was apparently afraid of the reaction of General WANG following the publication of the indiscretionary article.

4. During his trip from Nanking to Tonkin via Canton, Thuy was accompanied by two members of the "Gendarmerie Militaire Chinoise".*** In September or October these two observers returned to Canton and then went to Nanking. They were "ditched" by Thuy somewhere near the Indochinese border and had waited in vain for authorization to allow them to enter the areas of Tonkin controlled by the forces of Ho Chi Minh.

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*[redacted] Comment. [redacted] described Thuy's arrest and gives background information on Duong Thanh Dan.

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**[redacted] Comment. [redacted] gave biographical information on Hoang Nam Hung.

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***[redacted] Comment. This "courtesy" gesture on the part of WU Te-chen has several explanations: to enable the Chinese to watch Thuy during his trip; to enable the Chinese to get non-official observers into Tonkin. Thuy accepted this gesture as an assistance to him while travelling through KMT-controlled regions.

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